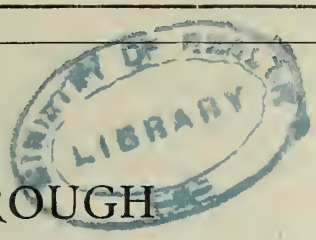

GUISBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NORTH RIDING (GUISBOROUGH) COMBINED DISTRICTS.

. REPORT .

for the Year 1946

of the Medical Officer of Health,

C. R. GIBSON, M.A., M.B., CH.B. D.P.H.

STOKELD & SONS
PRINTERS GUISBOROUGH

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

GUISBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my twenty-eighth Annual Report, that for the year 1946.

As I have had to write this before the Registrar-General's estimate of population and corrected figures for births, deaths, etc., are available, my figures for these are provisional only and are subject to alteration when the more exact figures are known.

The Registrar-General estimated the population of the Urban District at the middle of 1945 as 7,813 ; an increase of 76 from the previous year. I would estimate, therefore, on this basis, and allowing for the effect of demobilisation, that the population of the district at the middle of 1946 may be taken as 7,900.

The births registered in the district during 1946 reached the large total of 302. There is, however, in Guisborough, both a County Council maternity home and a private nursing home admitting a considerable number of maternity cases from outside the district and I would estimate that the children born to residents of the district may be taken as not more than 150, corresponding to a birth-rate of 19·0 per thousand of the population.

The deaths of residents during the year numbered 103, not including those which occurred in hospitals, etc., outside the district, during the last quarter of the year, particulars of which are not yet to hand ; including these the probable total will be about 105, giving a death-rate of 13·3 per thousand of population, or practically the same rate as in 1945.

The number of deaths of children under one year of age was 9, so that if the estimate of births as 150 is correct, the infant mortality rate has been 60 infant deaths per thousand births, compared with a rate of 43 in 1945 and of 82 in 1944.

There were no deaths at all of children aged from 1—4 years, maintaining the very satisfactory improvement evidenced at this age period during the last few years. In the five years 1919—1923, when the number of children at these ages was roughly half as many again as now, 30 of them died, and 31 in the five years 1929—1933. In the period 1934—38, however, there were only 17 deaths at this age, only 13 in the period 1939—43, now only two children of this age died in the three years since 1943. There is no doubt that better nutrition and better care resulting from education and the smaller size of families have been largely responsible for this happy result. Fewer deaths is simply another way of saying better health, and if there is better health during the period of active growth the benefit will be experienced throughout the whole of life. In this connection it is interesting to compare the relative number of deaths at different age periods of life in 1919 with those in 1946. The figures for this district are as follows :—

	Estimated Population	Births	Deaths (all ages)	Deaths at Ages: Under 1 year	1—4 years	5—14 years	15—24 years	25—64 years	65 years and up
1919	6,981	217	121	27	8	3	4	34	45
1946	(7,900)	(150)	105	9	0	3	1	31	59

In 1919 the number of deaths of persons under 25 years of age was 42, while the number dying aged 25 years and upwards was 79 ; in 1946 the corresponding figures were 13 and 90. Due to the decline in the birth-rate since 1919—from about 31 to as low as 15·5 in 1939—the number of young people in the district has diminished but allowing for this the reduction of the number of deaths from 42 to 13 is still a remarkable evidence of improved health.

The statistics of notifiable diseases are given in Table II in the appendix to this report and mostly show a diminution compared with 1945, as is seen in the following table :—

Notified Cases per thousand Population.

	Guisborough U.D.		N.R. Combined Districts	
	1946	1945	1946	1945
Scarlet Fever	1·52	3·20	1·89	2·55
Diphtheria	0·00	1·92	0·40	1·12
Enteric Fever	0·13	0·00	0·03	0·02
Measles	11·13	16·65	5·78	16·60
Whooping Cough	1·54	2·18	3·62	1·64
Puerperal Pyrexia .... (*per thousand births*).	9·92	7·05	4·70	4·49

Scarlet fever of late years has become a mild disease, with few complications and of little danger to life. The last death from this cause in the district occurred in 1928. It is now the practice to discharge uncomplicated cases from the Joint Hospital after a fortnight's isolation.

One case of diphtheria was notified but the diagnosis was not confirmed on bacteriological examination. This is the first year free from diphtheria since 1928.

At the beginning of 1946 the responsibility for the immunisation against diphtheria of children under 5 years of age was transferred from the district council to the County Council, as the Child Welfare Authority, while the arrangements for immunising older children were left in the hands of the District Council. This change was not to replace any schemes that the District Council might be operating for the immunisation of younger children, although the expense of these would be borne by the County Council.

The figures for diphtheria immunisation in this District for 1946 and the previous year are as follows :—

	No. of Children immunised		Estimated No. of Children	Estimated No. of Children
	under 5 yrs.	5 years old and over	aged 1—4 yrs.	aged 5—14 years
1946	59	41	516	1232
1945	137	119	526	1185

In 1945 there were 13 cases of diphtheria in the district in children under 15 years, none of them fatal and nine known to have been previously immunised. In 1946, as already stated, there were no cases of diphtheria. This absence of diphtheria may have some bearing on the disappointing reduction in the numbers of children immunised which, if it continues, will prepare the way for another epidemic of this most serious disease.

One case of enteric fever—of the variety known as Paratyphoid B fever—was notified in the District in the middle of July. The source of the infection was not discovered. The last epidemic of this disease in the district was in 1936, with 22 cases, and, since then, two cases were notified in 1939 and one in 1942. The patient was still a "carrier" when discharged from hospital, precautions against spread of infection having been meanwhile taken by converting the closet at his home to water-carriage. He was still a positive carrier at the end of the year.

Measles had been epidemic in the District in 1945 with 16·6 cases per thousand population and a fresh outbreak in 1946 furnished 11·1 cases per thousand population. Fortunately there were no deaths.

There was a slight outbreak of whooping-cough, with 13 cases and no deaths.

There were five new cases of Tuberculosis during the year, four of them affecting the lungs, and also five deaths from this disease, four from tuberculosis of the lungs and one from abdominal tuberculosis.

Deaths from Tuberculosis in two-year periods
N.R. Combined Districts

	From tuberculosis of lungs or larynx	From other tuberculosis
1921—22	64	22
1923—24	74	18
1925—26	76	21
1927—28	53	31
1929—30	51	13
1931—32	45	19
1933—34	43	15
1935—36	44	13
1937—38	36	14
1939—40	43	8
1941—42	54	12
1943—44	49	5
1945—46	45	17

Deaths both from tuberculosis of the lungs and from tuberculosis elsewhere now stand at a considerably lower level than at the beginning of the period reviewed but, while deaths from tuberculosis of the lungs reached their lowest level in 1937—38, just before the war, and then rose during the war to a peak in 1941—42 when air-raids were most frequent and the general situation was at its most anxious, since when the number has again diminished, the deaths from other forms of tuberculosis—meningitis, abdominal tuberculosis, tuberculosis of bones and joints, etc.— have not followed a parallel course. They diminished more irregularly than the deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and reached their lowest level in 1943—44. In the following two years, 1945—46, they have risen again sharply, almost to as many as in 1931—32. There are two main varieties of the tubercle germ, the human type, found in practically all cases of tuberculosis of the lungs in man, and the bovine type, found in tuberculous cows and also in a very considerable proportion of cases of tuberculosis in children affecting other parts of the body than the lungs. This rise in the death rate from tuberculosis of other parts of the body than the lungs should lead one to pay special attention to the possibility of tuberculous milk being a present danger, especially in view of the increased quantity of milk consumed by children in the last few years. All milk for children should either be from tuberculin-tested cows, or should be pasteurised, or, failing that, boiled, to ensure that any tubercle germs it may contain are killed.

School Closure. A School Closing Order was made closing the small public elementary school at Hutton Lowcross from 23rd January to 4th February, owing to an outbreak of influenza.

Foods. The Sanitary Inspector made 53 inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies and 79 inspections of Food Retail Premises and Meat Distributing Centres.

Two samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination as to cleanliness, both reaching a high standard, with a bacterial count of under 8,000 per c.c., and Coliform bacilli absent in 1/100 c.c.

Three samples of ice-cream from two manufacturers in the district were taken by the Sanitary Inspector early in August and submitted for bacteriological examination; one sample had a bacterial count of 688,000 per c.c., while the other two reached 1,000,000 bacteria per c.c.; all three had coliform bacilli present in 1/1000 c.c. Your Inspector advised as to proper cleansing of utensils and equipment and further samples taken shortly afterwards had a bacterial count of under 1,000 per c.c., and no coliform bacilli present in 1 c.c.

Water Supplies. Samples from the Gisborough Water Company's Supply were submitted for analysis regularly. The results of these and other examinations are summarised in Tables 5 and 6 in the appendix.

Reports on samples from the Gisborough Water Co. were generally satisfactory throughout the year, except on one occasion in August, and there was no shortage of water.

In January, complaints were received of frequent absence of water supply to the 24 houses at Mount Pleasant. These receive a supply, installed by the mining company, who used to own the houses, from springs at Poplar Farm on the edge of Barnaby Moor, carried in iron pipes to a wooden storage tank at the corner of Well Wood, and the main from there to the cottages was in bad condition owing to mining subsidence.

A sample of this water submitted for analysis on January 21st (see Table 6) was reported as wholesome, but acid, and possibly, therefore, plumbo-solvent. Steps were taken to improve the supply.

A sample of the Council's water supply to Newton Village was taken (see Table 7) and found satisfactory.

On receiving from the County Medical Officer a copy of a report on a sample of water taken at Upleatham School another sample was taken from a house in the village on August 6th. The report on this (see Table 7) shewed evidence of pollution. This was reported to the Zetland Estate, the suppliers of the water, who stated they were negotiating with the Cleveland Water Company for a supply to the village. This does not seem to have been arranged so far.

A sample from the estate supply to Wilton Village was submitted and reported (see Table 6) to be pure and wholesome, but on the acid side of neutrality and, therefore, with possible plumbo-solvent action.

A sample of the estate supply to Hutton Village was submitted and reported (see Table 6) as of good organic quality but showing slight contamination by matter of excremental origin. This was reported to the Owners of the Middlesbrough Estate with suggestions for improvement.

The estate water supply to Yearby Village was also sampled and the report (see Table 6) indicates that although the water is extremely hard it was considered wholesome and suitable for drinking.

Swimming Pool. In order that the Council should be able to exercise proper control over the swimming pool at Whindell Bridge I recommended at the beginning of the year that you should adopt byelaws under Section 233 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for securing the purity of the water, the adequacy and cleanliness of the accommodation, regulating the conduct of persons using the swimming pool and for the prevention of accidents. Approval was later received from the Ministry of Health and the byelaws have now been adopted.

Housing. A start was made during the year on the Council's housing programme of sixty-six houses ; the street and sewer contract has been partially completed and the building of the houses commenced.

Six houses at Hutton Gate are under construction for a private builder and two houses in Belmangate, commenced before the war, were completed.

The Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., have commenced a building programme of 50 houses at Lazenby Village to house employees at their new works which are being built near there. A few houses were completed by the end of the year.

In the middle of August some families living in over-crowded conditions took the law into their own hands and " squatted " in the huts on the unoccupied camp of the Anti-Aircraft Battery near Dunsdale. Within a few days twenty-two families had moved in. Arrangements were at once made for the general sanitation of the camp and the water supply was turned on. The transfer of the camp on loan to the Council was approved subject to certain conditions and steps were taken to improve the amenities of the huts.

As you will notice from Table 4 the Sanitary Inspector has made 215 inspections of houses and issued 51 informal notices for repair. As soon as a sufficient number of new houses are available there are a number of old houses that are ripe for closing.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. R. GIBSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Guisborough,

February 13th, 1947.

APPENDIX.

Area (in acres) : 18,924.

Estimate of Resident Population, mid-1946 : 7,900.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945) according to Rate Book : 2,237.

Rateable Value : £30,470.

Sum represented by a penny rate : £123 : 4 : 4.

The main industries in which the population is engaged are ironstone mining, iron and steel works, and agriculture ; there is also a shirt factory at Guisborough.

APPENDIX.

1. SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Period.	Population.	Births.	Deaths.	Deaths at Ages		Deaths from all forms of Tubercu-losis.	Yearly Birth-rate.	Yearly Death-rate.	Infant Mortality Rate (Infant deaths per thousand births).
				Under 1 year	1—4 years.				
1884—1888	6,100	1100	552	161	88	—	36·1	17·1	146
1889—1893	5,623	849	410	94	56	—	30·2	14·6	108
1894—1898	5,630	910	413	98	44	—	32·4	14·7	108
1899—1903	5,645	932	468	132	50	—	33·0	16·6	142
1904—1908	6,300	1026	509	132	69	42	32·6	16·2	129
1909—1913	7,062	1044	542	128	56	58	29·6	15·4	122½
1914—1918	6,600	997	548	106	—	40	30·2	16·6	106
1919—1923	7,104	964	495	94	30	30	27·1	13·9	97½
1924—1928	6,656	651	440	53	31	33	19·6	13·2	81½
1929—1933	6,888	575	486	36	21	23	16·7	14·1	62½
1934—1938	7,987	665	506	31	17	28	16·6	12·7	46½
1939—1943	7,556	685	570	38	13	26	18·1	15·0	55½
1944	7,737	146	89	12	1	3	18·9	11·5	82
1945	7,813	139	105	6	1	3	17·8	13·4	43
1946	7,900	(150)	(105)	9	0	5	19·0	13·3	(60)

2. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1946

(other than Tuberculosis)

	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 year	2	3	4	5—	10—	15—	25—	35—	45—	65—	Cases Admit'd Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	12	—	—	1	1	—	7	3	—	—	—	—	—	8	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	20	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	5	4	5	—	4
Erysipelas	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Paratyphoid B Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Measles	88	2	12	12	20	10	32	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	13	1	3	1	4	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE 3. PATIENTS ADMITTED TO GUISBOROUGH & DISTRICT JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL

	1/4/40 to 31/3/41	41/42	42/43	44/45	45/46	Year 1946
Scarlet Fever	48	27	32	110	85	74
Diphtheria	56	73	36	22	92	30
Enteric Fever	1	2	—	—	—	2
Erysipelas	—	—	3	1	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	1	1	1	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	18	5	6	4	3	—
Others	29	30	36	40	56	20
TOTAL	154	139	114	179	236	126
Service and outside patients (included)	25	24	29	32	52	5

TABLE 4

Summary of the Work of the Sanitary Inspector's Department

Number of Complaints investigated	231
Number of New Closet Pans provided	125
Number of New Dustbins provided	83
Pan Closets converted to Water Closets	9
Verminous Premises Cleansed	4
Defective Drains dealt with	31
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies	53
Inspections of Factories	3
Inspections of Food Retail Premises and Meat Distributing Centres	79
Inspections of Temporary Dwellings	2
Inspections of Houses	215
Number of Informal Notices under Housing Acts (All Complied with)	51
Rat Disinfestation Order, 1943 :—	
Number of Premises treated	1
Number of Sewer treatments completed	1
Number of treatments of Refuse Tips	1

TABLE 5

Reports on Bacteriological Examination of water samples from domestic taps on Gisborough Water Company's Supply (from the North Riding Laboratory of Pathology and Public Health, Scarborough) except those samples marked * which were submitted to the Counties Public Health Laboratories, E.C. 4.

Date of Sample 1946	Colonies from 1 cc. on Agar in 3 days at 22° C.	Colonies from 1 cc. on Agar in 2 days at 37°C.	Coliform Organisms in 100 cc.	Strept.	B. Enteritidis Sporog.
*January 7th	0	0	0	0	0
January 22nd	7	3	0	0	0
February 6th	10	3	0	0	0
*March 3rd	200	720	0	present in 10 c.c.	0
March 4th	0	1	0	0	0
April 16th	6	4	0	0	0
April 29th	12	5	0	0	0
May 14th	5	4	0	0	0
June 12th	8	5	0	0	0
July 8th	8	1	6	0	0
*July 8th	1	70	0	0	0
August 6th	105	18	35	present in 10 c.c.	0
August 30th	5	6	0	present in 100 c.c.	0
*September 9th	1	1	0	0	0
September 10th	7	25	0	0	0
October 4th	4	22	0	0	0
*October 21st	22	30	present in 50 c.c.	0	present in 100cc
November 11th	10	19	3	present in 100 c.c.	0
November 29th	10	20	2	0	0

TABLE 6

Summary of results of chemical analysis of water samples from the Counties Public Health Laboratories, E.C. 4.

No. 1 Gisborough Water Company. No. 2 Mount Pleasant Supply. No. 3 Wilton Supply. No. 4 Hutton Supply. No. 5 Yearby Village.

	1	2	3	4	5
Date of Sample	*Jan.* 10	*Jan.* 22	*May* 29	*July* 29	*Oct.* 14
Turbidity, parts per million Silica Scale	—5	—5	—5	—5	7
Reaction pH	7·0	6·0	6·7	6·9	7·3
Total Solids dried at 180°C.	11·0	10·0	10·5	8·5	65·0
Free Carbonic Acid	0·4	1·3	0·4	0·3	2·5
Chlorine in Chlorides	1·7	2·1	3·1	1·8	6·6
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	2·5	0·8	1·5	1·5	34·0
Hardness—Total	3·0	4·5	3·0	3·0	47·0
Hardness—Temporary	0·5	4·5	0·0	1·5	34·5
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0·04	0·28	0·14	0·00	0·00
Nitrogen in Nitrites	—0·001	—	0·001	—0·001	—0·001
Free Ammonia	0·0044	0·0012	0·0016	0·0004	0·0088
Albuminoid Ammonia	0·0044	0·008	0·0006	0·0012	0·0010
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C.	0·115	0·005	0·000	0·015	0·020
Metals—Iron	0·015	0·010	0·036	0·046	0·028
Manganese	0·014	—	—	—	0·027
Lead	—	—	—	—	—
Free Chlorine, parts per million	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE 7.

Reports on Bacteriological Examinations of water samples from

(1) Standpipe on Newton Water Supply.

(2) Standpipe Upleatham Estate.

(3) Domestic Tap, Upleatham Estate.

	Date of Sample	Colonies from 1 cc. on Agar in 3 days at 22°C.	Colonies from 1 cc. on Agar in 2 days at 37°C.	Coliform Organisms in 100 cc.	Strept.
1.	Feb. 19th, 1946	16	4	0	0
2.	July 15th, 1946		60	90	0
3.	August 6th, 1946	105	18	35	present in 10 c.c.